Programme of Action. Statements by the United Nations specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations were delivered in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. The Ad Hoc Committee also completed the negotiations on the document containing key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

Preparations for the special session included a number of round table and technical meetings organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Population Division; a Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development organized through an inter-agency collaborative effort, under the auspices of the Working Group on International Migration of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All; and an International Forum organized by UNFPA which focussed on country-level operational and programme experience in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

The Commission on Population and Development acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-first special session met at United Nations Headquarters from 24 March to 1 April 1999. Three documents were presented to the Commission: 1) a report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action (see article in the present *Newsletter*); 2) a report of the UNFPA International Forum on the operational review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action; and 3) a report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly containing draft measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

The task of the preparatory committee was to negotiate proposals for key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action. The committee held extensive negotiations on a working paper submitted by the Chairman, Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, with proposals for key future actions. Substantial progress was achieved in forging consensus in many areas during the meetings. However, because of the complexity of the subject and the diversity of views on some contentious issues the time was insufficient for the committee to finalize its work. The committee met again in informal sessions on 5 to 7 May 1999 to continue negotiations on sections of the document.

A resumed session of the preparatory committee was held on 24, 25, 28 and 29 June 1999. The committee continued its consideration of the working paper submitted by the Chairman. At its conclusion on 29 June, the preparatory committee had reached consensus on all but 16 paragraphs and decided to forward to the special session for its further consideration a text which reflected the text and paragraphs agreed to as of 29 June. The remaining paragraphs were discussed at the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, and on 1 July, after having reached agreement on the complete text, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the document and decided to recommend the text to the special session for its adoption.

The documents of the preparatory committee and special session as well as all the statements delivered at the General Assembly are available on the POPIN web site at : http://www.undp.org/popin. The final report of the special session will be made available at the POPIN web site as soon as it is formally issued.

The success of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly will be a positive contribution for the five- year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Social Summit to be held in the year 2000.

Statement by Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly

The Cairo Conference, whose fifth anniversary we are marking today, was not an isolated event. It was an integral part of the series of great conferences held by the United Nations during the 1990s.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you of the themes of those conferences: the global environment, human rights, population, social development, women, and human settlements.

Those were distinct topics, but all related to each other, and to one central, overarching aim: development. Development of nations, and development of people.

And all those conferences aimed to reach that aim through an organized, and yet voluntary effort. A collective effort on a global scale. An effort by sovereign States and civil society working together. An effort guided by a common approach, based on universal values and principles which all could accept.

So Cairo was not just a population conference. It was a conference on population and development. It was part of a process, going back 25 years or more, during which we have all learned that every society's hopes of social and economic development are intimately linked to demography. All States now understand that, if they are to provide adequately for the future health and education of their citizens, they need to incorporate population policies into their development strategy.

Abundant research has shown us that economic growth and development have profound effects on fertility, on the size of families, on the age pyramid, and on patterns of migration. And we hardly need research to tell us that living conditions at the local level—family and village—are reflected in the national standard of living.

In other words, demography and development are constantly interacting. It seems blindingly obvious now, but until Cairo the world did not fully understand it.

Since Cairo, the world does understand it—and understand, too, that we have to stabilize the population of this planet. Quite simply, there is a limit to the pressures our global environment can stand. Patterns of consumption are one form of pressure, but another is the sheer size of the world's population—and a third is the way it is distributed around the globe. That's the global dimension. But there is also an individual dimension. Every human being aspires to health, security and dignity. That is the essence of human rights. And we now realize that sexual and reproductive health is an essential part of those rights.

Don't we all recognize as universal the anguish of the individual who loses wife or mother in childbirth, because proper care is not available? Of the teenager whose options in life are suddenly foreclosed, because she gets pregnant and drops out of school? Of the woman who has to go on having children even though she knows her health is at risk? Or of the refugee who has been raped but is too frightened, or too ashamed, to ask for help?

Better understanding of these issues has brought real change in the daily life of millions of people. They now have wider choices, and can make key decisions about their own lives.

Let me give you some examples of how things have changed since the first population conference, 25 years ago:

—Then, women in developing countries had an average of five children each. Today they have fewer than three.

— Then, 30 per cent of couples used family planning. Today, 60 per cent do—and the vast majority of governments now support it.

— Then, 140 out of every thousand babies born alive would die during childhood. Now, only 80 will.

— Then, average life expectancy was 59 years. Now, 66.

— And, in many countries, fewer women now die in childbirth—though reliable statistics on this are hard to come by, and it is certainly an area where much needs to be done.

Meanwhile, at the global level, the rate of growth of the world's population has slowed dramatically, from 2 to 1.3 per cent per year. In another 25 years it should be down to 0.8 per cent.

We are still adding 78 million to our numbers every year, but that figure too should decline, first slowly and then, in the second decade of the century, quite steeply.

All that is good news, for which every nation in the world can take some credit. States acted on internationally agreed principles and on their own national priorities and values. Most of them have achieved slower, more balanced population growth, not by coercion but by enhancing individual freedom.

We can all be proud that this has been achieved with the help of international consensus and cooperation under United Nations auspices. And we should also acknowledge that it was not done by States alone. NGOs, and other parts of civil society, made a big contribution. They spread the word. They lobbied for policy changes. They mobilized people to support national initiatives.

So have we done all that the Cairo Conference recommended? No, my friends. There is still much to do:

— In too many countries, girls still do not have the same chance to be educated as boys.

— Too many women still cannot choose when or whether to become pregnant.

— Too many women are victims of sexual violence, especially during conflict.

— Too many women resort to abortions that are not safe. Too many are still subjected to genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices.

— Too many men remain ignorant of, or indifferent to, their responsibility for the family and its reproductive health.

— Too many people are still exposed to sexually transmitted diseases.

— Too many countries are being ravaged by the spread of AIDS.

— People in developing countries still die too young—as they do in the former communist countries, in some of which life expectancy has actually declined.

— And so on.

The stakes could hardly be higher. If only we could implement the Cairo programme in full, we could make a tremendous difference to human rights, to hopes of prosperity, and to the sustainable use of natural resources.

We must do it. But we cannot do it without funds.

In Cairo, everyone agreed on the need to mobilize new financial resources—from within developing countries, and also from the international community.

Since then, developing countries have proved their commitment. But they are cruelly limited in what they can achieve without outside help.

Too often—let's admit it—they are also limited by the effects of conflicts, arms spending, or by inadequate leadership.

But too often, also, they have to give priority to debt servicing, or to draconian budgetary austerity imposed in the name of "structural adjustment".

In all cases, it is the people who suffer. They are entitled to expect more sympathy, and better treatment, from countries which are more fortunate.

I know that it's easier said than done. Even rich countries contain many poor people, and their governments face many competing claims. But what could be more important than the chance to help the world's people control their numbers through greater prosperity and wider choice?

We can do it. Thanks to Cairo, we know how to do it. Let us all reaffirm the pledges we made in Cairo.

In the next few days, specific proposals will be put before you. They are the fruit of five years' experience, and are based firmly on the principles agreed in the Cairo Programme.

This special session gives us a unique chance to face up to what is undoubtedly one of the great challenges—perhaps the greatest—of the coming century. You are meeting in the right place—the United Nations, the world's only truly global forum. We in the Secretariat, and in the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), are here to help you.

I wish you success in your deliberations. I wish us all success in the next five years in implementing the Cairo Programme.

Review and Appraisal of the Progress Made in Achieving the Goals and Objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) called for a regular review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, such a review and appraisal is to be undertaken every 5 years. The Population Division presented the first such review to the Commission on Population and Development acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development during its thirty-second session from 24 March – 1 April 1999. *The Review and Appraisal of the Progress Made in Achieving the Goals and Objectives of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on*

Population and Development was prepared as both a full report (United Nations document ESA/P/WP.148) and a concise version (E/CN.9/1999/PC2).

The *Review and Appraisal* documents major changes in policies and programme approaches, which emphasize the linkages between population and development and integrate population concerns throughout economic and social sectors. The report provides an overall assessment of population growth, structure and distribution; reproductive rights and reproductive health; health and mortality; international migration; and population programmes and resources.

Population growth, structure and distribution

Despite significant declines in rates of population growth, rapid population growth remains a concern for a majority of Governments in developing countries. In contrast, more than two-thirds of developed countries consider their rates of population growth to be satisfactory, and a growing number are voicing concern over low rates of population growth and their consequences for socio-economic development. As a result of the unparalleled growth of urban agglomerations, problems associated with inappropriate population distribution plague many countries. Only about one-fourth of countries are satisfied with their patterns of spatial distribution. The *Review and Appraisal* finds that there has been persistent interest in population's possible economic effects in the longer run. The predominant view in recent years, as reflected in the Programme of Action, is that slower rates of population growth can buy more time to adjust and can increase countries' ability to attack poverty, protect and repair the environment, and build the base for future sustainable development.

Reproductive rights and reproductive health

The Programme of Action emphasizes that all countries should strive to make accessible through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as

possible. However, the *Review and Appraisal* indicates that the Programme and the concepts it describes have not been disseminated as widely and publicly as was envisioned and hoped for after the International Conference on Population and Development. Consequently, some aspects of the reproductive health and rights agenda have received limited support. Two key strategic steps to be taken in moving towards a reproductive health approach are integrating existing services and broadening available services.

Desired family size is declining in all developing regions, which is fueling the demand for reproductive health services including family planning services. The average level of contraceptive use is estimated at 70 per cent of couples in union in the more developed regions and 55 per cent in the less developed regions. Notable progress has been made in extending family planning and other reproductive health services. Contraceptive prevalence has increased substantially over the past 10 years in a large number of developing countries, including some of the least developed African countries.

Health and mortality

The *Review and Appraisal* indicates that while global life expectancy is increasing, progress is by no means uniform. It is estimated that by 2005, 101 of 184 countries will have met the goals set out by the Programme of Action with average life expectancies of 70 years or more. Another 25 high mortality countries will meet the life expectancy goal of 65 years, while fifty-eight countries will not reach the Programme's goal by 2005, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. In regions where mortality has been declining, new challenges threaten to offset improvements. Some of the countries of Eastern Europe have been experiencing a stagnation of mortality improvement and even declines in national life expectancies. Mortality in these countries has been particularly high among adult males, due to non-communicable diseases, accidents, injuries and violent deaths.

Longstanding infectious diseases, re-emerging diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera, and the more recent threat of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) threaten to undermine gains in life expectancy. Furthermore, lack of basic sanitation, water supply and food safety continue to contribute greatly to diarrhoeal disease mortality and morbidity. The number of people without sanitation in developing countries in 1994 totalled 2.9 billion. This figure is projected to increase to 3.3 billion people by the year 2000.

During pregnancy, women can develop life-threatening complications that require medical attention. The *Review and Appraisal* emphasizes that it is essential that pregnant women have access to high quality obstetric care as well as antenatal care.

One of the most alarming developments in the field of health is the HIV/AIDS epidemic. By the end of 1998 about 33 million people were infected with HIV, and 13.9 million people have succumbed to the disease. Some 2.5 million people died of AIDS in 1998. Solutions that have worked well in one place or for one group may not necessarily work somewhere else. Thus the strategic planning process should aim to mobilize the strengths of all social and economic groups and be sufficiently flexible to cope with the changing nature of the epidemic.

International migration

The Programme of Action reflects key concerns of the international community regarding the need to address the root causes of international migration and to promote the contributions of migrants to development. The *Review and Appraisal* corroborates the importance of focusing on those issues but, at the same time, indicates the extreme complexity of the problems involved. As the Programme of Action

suggests, the manageability of international migration hinges on making the option to remain in one's country a viable one for all people.

The Programme of Action emphasizes that the integration of documented migrants into the host society is generally desirable, and for that purpose it is important to extend to them the same social, economic and legal rights as those enjoyed by citizens. However, the *Review and Appraisal* finds that there has been little progress in ensuring that documented migrants enjoy equality of treatment with citizens in terms of conditions of work. In most countries, migrant workers admitted on a temporary basis are generally constrained to remain in a particular job or occupation. Changing employer requires prior authorization. Such conditions of work for temporary migrant workers may lead to exploitative conditions of work, especially in the case of female migrants engaged in domestic service.

The prevention of undocumented migration is one of the major priorities for countries all over the world. Various measures have been adopted to deter undocumented migration and there have been several concerted efforts to exchange information among the immigration authorities of different countries. Trafficking in migrants has become a major concern in all regions but many countries still lack legislation making trafficking in-migrants a criminal offence. Because trafficking in-migrants involves transnational operations that are often carried out by organized crime syndicates, strategies to combat it require the cooperation of authorities in the various countries involved.

According to the *Review and Appraisal*, there has been a decline during the past few years in the world's refugee population, and a simultaneous increase in the number of internally displaced persons. These trends are certainly related to the international community's recent emphasis on "in-country protection", paralleled by a diminished willingness to grant asylum. International cooperation has been

considered essential in addressing the problems faced by refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons. National action plans have also been developed on the basis of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference.

Population programmes and resources

Since the International Conference on Population and Development, many countries have revised their population policies and programmes in line with the recommendations of the Programme of Action. Some Governments have begun policy dialogue at the highest levels. Others have established ministries or committees to address population concerns and to integrate population in development policies. A number of Governments have begun to integrate and decentralize reproductive health and family planning services, providing opportunities for more efficient management and coordination of activities through collaboration with partners in the public, private and non-governmental sector. In addition, during the past five years the number and strength of non-governmental organizations committed to population concerns have grown significantly. Many Governments are also incorporating gender concerns into their development policies. They are also integrating care for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS into reproductive health programmes. An increasing number of countries are formulating policies and initiating programmes that address the reproductive health concerns of adolescents, and some have made male involvement in reproductive health a policy concern.

The flow of financial resources for population activities increased just prior to the International Conference on Population and Development as well as in the period immediately after the Conference. Several members of the international donor community demonstrated their commitment to achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action by increasing levels of funding. However, the *Review and Appraisal* finds that the momentum generated by the Conference appears to have diminished.

Although a number of donors continued to increase their funding levels in 1996, overall international assistance has remained unchanged as a number of donors either reduced their contributions or remained at the same level of funding as the previous year.

Since the Conference, many civil society organizations now enjoy easier access to and direct contacts with ministries and departments of national Governments. Non-governmental organizations are increasingly being asked to contribute to the formulation and/or implementation of programmes and projects that they execute on their own or in partnership with Government institutions. However, not all Governments have established partnerships with non-governmental organizations, nor are all existing partnerships effective and harmonious. Among the more frequent constraints encountered are the absence of an enabling environment for mutually beneficial partnerships and the lack of financial sustainability.

Concluding observations

The *Review and Appraisal* notes that the time since the adoption of the Programme of Action is just five years; so that changes in Government policies and establishment of new programmes along the lines of the Programme of Action have not yet had time to fully bear fruit.

It is clear that for some issues, and for some countries, regions and groups, progress has been achieved. Mortality in most countries has continued to fall since the International Conference on Population and Development. Reproductive health programmes have been established in many countries and rising contraceptive use among couples indicates greater accessibility to family planning and greater ability of couples to have the number and spacing of children they desire. Many countries, both sending and receiving, have taken important steps, particularly at the regional level, to manage international

migration flows through bi-national and multi-national agreements. In addition, many civil society organizations are contributing to the formulation and implementation of policies, programmes and projects on their own or in partnership with governmental and intergovernmental institutions.

Nonetheless, for some issues, and for some countries, regions and groups, progress has been limited and, in some cases, setbacks have occurred. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has led to increases in mortality in many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Political shocks and adjustments associated with the transition to a market economy for a number of countries in Asia and Europe have been accompanied by stagnating and in some cases, increasing mortality, particularly among adult men. Yet to be seen is the extent to which the financial crises that are affecting social welfare in countries of East Asia and elsewhere will limit their progress in implementing the Programme of Action.

The *Review and Appraisal* concludes that much progress has been achieved, but it is uneven and a great deal remains to be done. Resources are necessary, but national evidence shows that Government leadership, priorities and commitment are the critical variables for successful implementation of the Programme of Action.

WORLD POPULATION MONITORING 1999

Population Growth, Structure and Distribution

In the quarter-century since the 1974 World Population Conference in Bucharest, the demographic situation of the world has undergone striking changes. World population size has increased from 4 billion persons to nearly six billion in 1998. At the same time, the world population growth rate has fallen from around 2 per cent per year in 1970-1975 to 1.3 per cent in 1998, average number of children per couple has

fallen from 4.5 to 2.7 and life expectancy at birth has risen from 58 years to 65 years. The share of the world's population living in urban areas has increased from 36 per cent to 47 per cent and the number of megacities of 10 million persons or more has multiplied from 5 to 18. The number of persons who have moved to another country has risen to over 125 million in 1998.

The issues of population growth, structure and distribution are the subject of the 1999 edition of the *World Population Monitoring Report*, which is prepared annually by the Population Division for presentation to the Commission on Population and Development and the international community. The report for 1999 reviews the demographic changes in population size and growth in the world and its urban and rural areas, the changes in mortality, fertility and migration which underlie these changes and the population policies Governments have adopted in response to their concerns with national aspects of population and development. The *Monitoring Report* concludes with a review of the state of knowledge on the interrelationships of population with poverty, food and the environment. An appendix to the report reviews the state of data collection around the world and the need for more resources and more attention to this area if national and international population and development policies are going to be effectively targeted and devised and reliably monitored.

The world population in 1998 is 5.9 billion persons, growing at a rate of 1.3 per cent annually. Each year, about 78 million persons are being added to the world. In the United Nations medium-fertility variant projection, which is considered as the most likely, world population will reach 8.9 billion in 2050. In 1998, four out of five people in the world - 4.7 billion - live in the less developed regions, while 20 per cent, 1.2 billion, live in the more developed regions. About 96 percent (74 million), of the total annual population increase originates in the less developed regions of the world.

The number of countries with 100 million or more inhabitants has increased rapidly (see table 1). In 1950, there were just 4 such countries; in 1998 there were 10 and it is projected that by 2050 there will be 18. In 1998, China was the largest country of the world with 1.26 billion persons, followed by India with 982 million. According to the United Nations medium-fertility projection, India will be the largest country in the world in 2050 with 1.53 billion persons.

Since 1970-1975 world total fertility has declined by 39 per cent from 4.5 births per woman to the current level of 2.7 births per woman. In the less developed regions women are currently having more than two fewer children than women did three decades ago. In the more developed regions, fertility declined from 2.1 births per woman during 1970-1975 to a historical low of 1.6 for the current period, 1995-2000. Even though fertility has declined to relatively moderate levels in many developing countries, and to below replacement level in some, a large and growing number of live births are occurring annually, due to the continued growth in the number of women of childbearing age; a legacy of past high fertility levels. In the less developed regions the average number of births per year was 104 million in 1970-1975; the annual number has grown to 117 million births today.

Even though there is a broad agreement about conditions that favour the onset of the fertility transition, there is no consensus regarding specific conditions that need to be present for the transition to begin. In countries where fertility has started to decline, a significant increase in contraceptive prevalence was an important contributing factor. Other factors associated with fertility decline include a decline in levels of child mortality, increased levels of education among women, increased urbanization and increases in age at marriage. However, each of these principal factors does not always autonomously lead to fertility decline, nor are these factors always collectively associated with changes in fertility levels. In the

post-transition countries, where fertility is increasingly becoming lower, increased status of women appears to be one of the important determinants of continued low fertility.

At the global level, the continuing progress in the reduction of mortality is revealed in the increase of life expectancy at birth from 58 years in the early 1970s to 65 years for the period 1995-2000. Simultaneously, infant mortality has declined from 93 per 1,000 live births to 57. The causes of recent national mortality trends include a large array of factors. The medical and hygienic interventions to combat or prevent infectious and parasitic diseases were largely responsible for the rapid decreases in communicable diseases and ensuing mortality declines, especially among children, which many developing countries have experienced since the 1960s. However, the war against communicable diseases is not won yet. Globally, infectious and parasitic diseases, respiratory infections, malnutrition, maternal and neonatal mortality account for more than 40 per cent of all deaths. Recent years have shown a toll from AIDS in many countries from every region of the world. The epidemic has been particularly devastating in some sub-Saharan African countries. In many African countries, AIDS has led to reductions in life expectancy at birth. In addition, some of the countries of Eastern Europe have been experiencing a stagnation of mortality improvement and even declines in national life expectancies. Mortality in these countries has been particularly high among adult males, due to non-communicable diseases, accidents, injuries and violent deaths.

During the twentieth century, the contribution of net migration to population growth has been of minor demographic importance for most countries, especially for those where natural increase has been high. However, with the marked reduction of fertility experienced by a growing number of countries, the role of international migration in determining population growth has been rising. For developed countries in

particular, the low levels of fertility that have prevailed over recent periods have meant that moderate or even low levels of international migration have had a significant impact on rates of population growth.

Continued high rates of population growth remain an issue of policy concern for many countries of the world, although fewer countries are now expressing a concern than at the time of the 1994 International Conference on Population. In fact, in response to low levels of fertility in a growing number of countries, and the social and economic consequences of the resultant population ageing, more countries are expressing concern about their low rates of population growth. The proportion of Governments that consider their rate of population growth to be too high declined from 44 per cent in 1993 to 41 per cent in 1998. The proportion of Governments perceiving their growth rate to be too low increased from 11 per cent in 1993, to 14 per cent in 1998.

The world child population, i.e, those under age 15 years, stood at 1.8 billion in 1998. Children make up 19 per cent of the population in more developed regions and 33 per cent in less developed regions. Ages 15-24 represent a transition from childhood to adulthood. Rapid growth in the number of young people means rapid growth in the demand for secondary and higher education, jobs and housing. World youth numbered 1 billion in 1998 (almost 60 per cent more than in 1970) and by 2050 youth are projected to number 1.3 billion.

Although the world population of older persons is considerably smaller than the child population, it is growing at a much faster rate. In 1998 there were 580 million persons aged 60 years or over in the world or 10 per cent of world population. By 2050, this figure will triple to nearly 2 billion, when it will be larger than the child population. The older population is increasing at a substantially faster rate in the less developed than the more developed regions. The oldest old, persons aged 80 years or more, are the fastest

growing segment of the older population. By 2050, the number of oldest old is projected to be 5.6 times larger than at present (66 million) and will be 4 per cent of world population. In more developed regions, one person in 11 will be aged 80 or more.

Another major transformation during the twentieth century has been the growth of urban centres and the concentration of population in urban areas. As of mid-1998, 47 per cent of the world population lived in urban areas and the urban population was growing at 2.3 per cent per year (Figure I). Since the 1960s rural-urban migration has accounted for about 40 per cent of urban growth. The urban population is growing three times faster than its rural counterpart. As a result, half of the world population is expected to be urban by 2006. Moreover, approximately three fifths will be living in urban areas by 2030.

The giant urban agglomerations, a recent phenomenon, are becoming both larger and more numerous. The largest cities in the world in 1998 were Tokyo, with a population of 28 million, Mexico City (18 million) and Sao Paulo (17 million). By 2015, Lagos will be the third largest in the world (24.6 million), after Tokyo (29 million) and Bombay (26 million). Between 1970 and 1998, the number of cities with 10 million or more inhabitants grew from 3 to 18. Of the 18 cities with 10 million or more inhabitants in 1998, two are in Africa (Lagos and Cairo), 4 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2 in Northern America and 10 in Asia. It is projected that by 2015, 26 cities will have a population of 10 million or more (4 in the more developed regions and 22 in the less developed regions). However, half of the world urban population still lives in smaller cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants.

In 1998, 44 per cent of Governments considered their patterns of population distribution to be a major concern. Another 29 per cent saw their patterns of population distribution to be a minor concern. In many developing countries, population distribution policies are largely synonymous with measures to reduce

or even to attempt to reverse rural-urban migration, with the aim of controlling the growth of the primate city or other large metropolitan areas. Evidence indicates that these policies have not always been effective. Partially in response, many countries have adopted strong rural-oriented spatial policies. Whereas many Governments throughout the developing world have strongly endorsed the concept of promoting small and medium-sized cities, how to go about it is far less clear. A number of Governments have also in recent years adopted policies that seek to work alongside market forces—by channeling private investment to designated areas, providing infrastructure in under-served areas, or removing subsidies that previously favoured the residents of certain locations such as the national capital. The idea behind this approach is to create a "level playing field" whereby a number of areas of a country are equally attractive to potential migrants. Megacity size, on its own, may not always be a critical policy variable. The key challenge is to efficiently manage megacity growth. Management of urban growth becomes more important, as the integration of the world economy and the expansion of international trade and investment changes the bases of urban economic growth in the twenty-first century.

Debates surrounding the consequences of population growth for the pace of economic development have been both vigorous and contentious. The impacts of rapid population growth have been judged to vary considerably by country and over time, and have been considered to be relatively small by comparison with other determinants of economic prosperity. Nonetheless, there is a general view that the rapid population growth of many developing countries makes it more difficult for these countries to achieve improvements in the standard of living as well as to protect their environments.

Government policies condition the form and the size of population's impacts on the economy. Unfortunately, very little is known about how Governments react to rapid population growth, apart from policies aimed at influencing population growth itself. The Programme of Action of the International

Conference on Population and Development reflected a consensus that slower population growth buys time for Governments to adjust. However, slowing population growth does not itself ensure that favourable policy and institutional changes will occur. The time "bought" by slower population growth may be squandered if needed policy changes are not made.

Many Governments view their population size, growth or distribution as a cause for concern in relation to environmental problems. For countries responding to the Eighth United Nations Inquiry Among Governments on Population and Development, water pollution, the amount of fresh water and deterioration of the urban environment were the areas over which serious concern was most often expressed regarding population's impacts. In the less developed regions, around 90 per cent of responses indicated either a major or a minor concern over population in relation to those three areas. Population size or trends were viewed as a serious concern by close to one-half, and as a minor concern by another one-fourth of Governments, in relation to air pollution, forests, degradation of agricultural land and bio-diversity. Population's role was a serious concern for around one-third, and of minor concern for an additional one-fourth of countries with respect to the amount of agricultural land, coastal areas, dry areas and hilly or mountainous zones.

World Population Monitoring 1999 concludes that poverty reduction, food provision, and environmental maintenance are integrally linked with demographic, economic and political change. "Vicious circles" of cumulatively worsening performance in each of the latter two dimensions may be exacerbated by rapid population growth. Breaking this interacting web can be facilitated by Government policies that promote income growth, empower the poor with education and health, and provide incentives to behave prudently in the allocation of resources. Such policies can lead to "virtuous circles" of cumulatively improving performance in all three dimensions. In such a situation, children are less likely to be seen as producing agents, women and men's roles change, and the demand for reproductive health

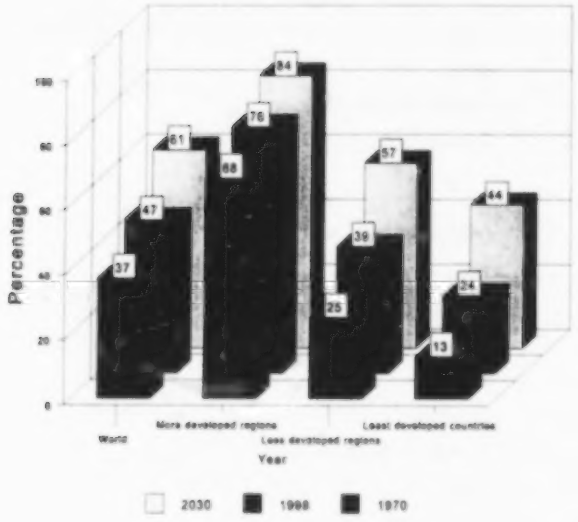
services increases. Economic and demographic changes are mutually interacting forces influenced by institutional settings and Government policy. As a result, population policies are an important element of the policy-making components needed to advance economic development, eliminate poverty and foster long-run environmental stewardship.

TABLE 1. COUNTRIES WITH A POPULATION OF OVER 100 MILLION IN 1950, 1998 AND 2050

Rank	*Country*	*Population (millions)*
	1950	
1	China	555
2	India	358
3	United States of America	158
4	Russian Federation	102
	1998	
1	China	1 256
2	India	982
3	United States of America	274
4	Indonesia	206
5	Brazil	166
6	Pakistan	148
7	Russian Federation	147
8	Japan	128
9	Bangladesh	125
10	Nigeria	106
	2050	
1	India	1 529
2	China	1 478
3	United States of America	349
4	Pakistan	345
5	Indonesia	312
6	Nigeria	244
7	Brazil	244
8	Bangladesh	212
9	Ethiopia	169
10	Democratic Republic of the Congo	160
11	Mexico	147
12	Philippines	131
13	Viet Nam	127
14	Russian Federation	121
15	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	115
16	Egypt	115
17	Japan	105
18	Turkey	101

Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, *World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XIII.9), Vol. I: Comprehensive Tables.

Figure I. Percentage of population residing in urban areas, 1970, 1998 and 2030



Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 1996 Revision* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XIII.6).

COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The thirty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development was held at United Nations Headquarters on 22, 23 and 26 March 1999. Its central theme was population growth, structure and distribution, with special emphasis on sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including education. The Commission also met in open-ended session from 24 March to 1 April acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. (See the accompanying article, "The General Assembly reviews ICPD+5" for a discussion of the Commission's preparatory meetings for the special session.)

The documents before the Commission included a report on world population monitoring, focusing on the theme of the session. The report provided a summary of recent information on population growth, structure and distribution and covered such topics as population growth and its components, changing population age structures, population distribution, urbanization and internal migration, and population growth, poverty, food provision and the environment. The Commission also had before it a report of the Technical Symposium on International Migration and Development of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Task Force on Basic Social Services for All. Other reports covered flows of international resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; world demographic trends, programme performance and implementation in the field of population in 1998, and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001.

The Commission also considered the report of its Bureau's 1999 inter-sessional meeting. The Bureau comprehensively reviewed major aspects of the work of the Commission, of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly and the work programme of the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The conclusions and recommendations of the Bureau were conveyed to the Commission for appropriate action.

The Commission discussed follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development. It reaffirmed its decision 1998/1, in which it decided that "Population, gender and development" should be the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-third session, in the year 2000; decided further that the special theme for the Commission at its thirty-fourth session should be "Population, environment and development"; and requested the United Nations Secretariat to submit themes for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions of the Commission, in consultation with member States, for a decision by the Commission at its thirty-third session. The Commission also recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft resolution in which the Council would request the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat to continue its work on population growth, structure and distribution, including levels, trends, determinants, consequences and policies, while giving due attention to issues related to, *inter alia*, youth, ageing, migration and data collection, so that Governments may benefit by comparing experiences and by understanding the factors underlying changing demographic circumstances.

The Commission approved the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, to be held in the year 2000, and adopted its report on its thirty-second session.

DEMOGRAPHIC YEARBOOK 1997

The newly published *Demographic Yearbook 1997* contains general tables giving a world summary of basic demographic statistics, followed by tables presenting statistics on size, distribution and trends in population, natality, mortality, nuptiality and divorce. Urban and rural breakdowns of the data are given wherever possible. The information is compiled from national statistical offices around the world and prepared by the Statistics Division of the Department of the Economic and Social Affairs.

The Statistics Division is also preparing the first issue of the Demographic Yearbook CD-ROM. The CD-ROM will contain historical demographic statistics and present times series on population size, age, sex, urban/rural residence, natality, mortality, nuptiality as well as selected derived measures concerning components of population change for a 50-year period, covering 1948 to 1997.

Copies of the *Demographic Yearbook 1997* (Sales No. E/F/99.XIII.1) may be ordered from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York or Geneva, or through major booksellers throughout the world. Those who wish further information on the *Yearbook* or other publications on demographic statistics may inquire by fax (212-963-1940), electronic mail (demostat@un.org) or visit the United Nations Statistics Division world wide home page at: http://www.un.org/depts/unsd

UNITED NATIONS ISSUES WALL CHART ON WORLD CONTRACEPTIVE USE 1998

As part of its ongoing monitoring of world contraceptive use, the Population Division has issued a wall chart entitled *World Contraceptive Use 1998*. The wall chart presents the most up-to-date information available on the current contraceptive practices of married women of reproductive age in 142 countries and areas, covering 92 per cent of the world's population. A companion piece to the forthcoming publication entitled *Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 1998*, the wall chart displays data from nationally representative sample surveys of women of reproductive age conducted between 1971 and 1997.

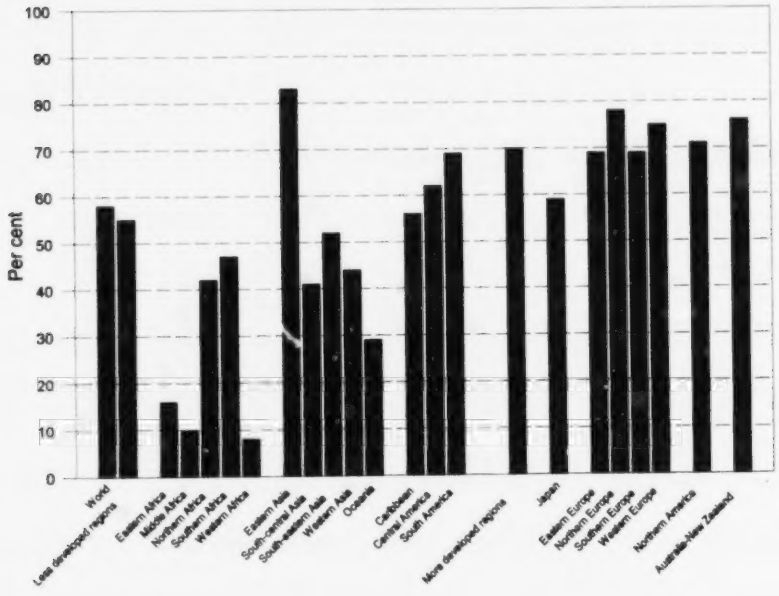
The chart indicates that worldwide contraceptive prevalence (the percentage of couples currently using contraception) is estimated to have reached 58 per cent, with average levels of use higher in the more

developed regions than in the less developed regions, at 70 and 55 per cent respectively. In the more developed countries, nearly three-quarters of married couples currently use a method of contraception. Levels of use are nearly as high, between 60 and 70 per cent, in Asia and Latin America. In contrast, the average contraceptive prevalence in Africa and the developing countries of Oceania is 20 and 29 per cent, respectively.

These averages mask considerable disparities in use, particularly among the less developed regions, where the range in contraceptive prevalence is from just 8 per cent in Western Africa to more than 80 per cent in Eastern Asia (figure II). To date, the highest level of contraceptive use among all countries is reported by China (83 per cent). In fact, the very high level of use in China, with one fifth of the world's population, inflates the average for Asia and the less developed regions as a whole. Excluding China, average prevalence in the less developed regions hovers around 42 per cent.

The chart distinguishes between "clinic and supply methods" ("modern" methods that require supplies or clinical services, including contraceptive sterilization, IUDs, hormonal methods, condoms and vaginal barrier methods, etc.) and "non-supply methods" ("traditional" methods, including withdrawal, the calendar rhythm method, etc.), of which clinic and supply methods account for most of current global contraceptive practice (87 per cent). Interestingly, modern methods make up a larger share of total contraceptive use in the less developed regions (91 per cent of all users) than in the more developed regions (74 per cent of all users). Among other factors, this reflects the common use of certain traditional methods, including withdrawal and various forms of the calendar rhythm method, primarily in Eastern and Southern Europe.

Figure II. Percentage of married women of reproductive age currently using contraception, by major areas and regions



For the world as a whole, the chart demonstrates that among modern contraceptives, the most widely used methods are those used by women: female sterilization is used by 19 per cent of married women worldwide; IUDs by 13 per cent; and oral pills by 8 per cent. The main male methods of contraception, condoms and vasectomy, are each used by 4 per cent of married men. The most commonly used methods in the more developed regions are the oral pill (17 per cent), the condom (14 per cent), and female sterilization (9 per cent). By contrast, in the less developing regions, the most common methods are female sterilization (21 per cent), the IUD (14 per cent), and oral pills (6 per cent).

The chart also indicates that nearly all developing countries have experienced an increase in contraceptive prevalence during the recent past. Prevalence increased by at least 10 percentage points over the previous decade in more than two-thirds of the countries with available data on trends, and use rates are

expected to continue to increase. Some developed countries also show a rise in contraceptive prevalence in recent years, although most changes are relatively small. In the more developed regions, the major trend has been towards greater use of modern methods.

The data presented in the wall chart are also available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.undp.org/popin.

UNITED NATIONS ISSUES WALL CHART ON ABORTION POLICIES

A wall chart recently issued by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides up-to-date information on the abortion policies of 193 nations. The preparation of the wall chart was facilitated by close cooperation among United Nations bodies.

The chart indicates the grounds on which induced abortion is legally permitted in each of the countries. Based on an extensive review of national and international sources, the chart discloses that 98 per cent of the countries permit abortion to be performed to save the woman's life. Abortion under other circumstances varies; 63 per cent of countries permit abortion to preserve the woman's physical health; in 62 per cent of countries abortion is legal to preserve the woman's mental health and in 43 per cent of countries when the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

A review of the 193 countries by level of development reveals substantial differences in abortion policies between the developed and developing countries. Among the 48 developed countries, 65 per cent permit abortion on all grounds, whereas the corresponding figure for 145 developing countries is 14 per cent. The information on abortion practices and policies is complemented by the relevant

demographic data for each country.

The data presented in the wall chart are also available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.undp.org/popin.

UNITED NATIONS ISSUES WALL CHART ON POPULATION AGEING

An inevitable consequence of the demographic transition and the shift to lower fertility and mortality has been the evolution in the age structure of world population. Many societies, especially in the more developed regions, have already attained older population age structures than ever seen in the past. Many developing countries in the midst of the demographic transition are experiencing rapid shifts in the relative numbers of children, working age population and older persons. The magnitude, tempo and consequences of global population ageing are issues of considerable significance for both developed and developing countries.

As part of its ongoing work on the demographic, economic and social aspects of population ageing and as a contribution to the International Year of Older Persons 1999 (as designated by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992), the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has issued the first-ever United Nations wall chart on population ageing. *Population Ageing 1999* provides the most up-to-date and comprehensive information available on population ageing at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels. Included in the Wall Chart are data on the number and percentage of older persons, life expectancy at age 60, the percentage of the older population currently married, the potential support ratio, the statutory retirement age and the percentage of older population in the labour force. Because gender differences are so significant at the older ages, data are presented for males and females separately wherever possible. A summary of the major findings appear below and in the table on the backpage.

The number of older persons is increasing rapidly

The number of persons aged 60 years or older is estimated to be nearly 600 million in 1999, and is projected to grow to almost 2 billion by 2050, at which time the population of older persons will be larger than the population of children (0-14 years) for the first time in human history. The majority of the world's older persons currently reside in Asia (53 per cent), while Europe has the next largest share (25 per cent).

One of every 10 persons is now aged 60 years or older; by 2050, the United Nations projects that 1 person of every 5 and, by 2150, 1 of every 3 will be aged 60 years or older. Striking differences exist between regions in the level of ageing. For example, one out of five Europeans, but one out of twenty Africans, is 60 years or older. Although the percentage of older persons is currently much higher in the more developed than in the less developed regions, the pace of ageing in less developed regions is more rapid, and their transition from a young to an old age structure will be faster.

The older population is itself ageing

Currently, the oldest old (80 years or older) make up 11 per cent of the population aged 60 years or older. The oldest old are the fastest growing segment of the older population and, by 2050, 19 per cent of the older population will be aged 80 years or older. The number of centenarians (aged 100 years or older) is projected to increase 15-fold from approximately 145,000 in 1999 to 2.2 million people by 2050.

Older people are living longer

Of those surviving to age 60, men can expect to live another 17 years and women an additional 20 years. However, there are still large differences in mortality levels between countries. In the least developed countries, men reaching age 60 can expect only 14 more years of life and women, 16 years, while in the more

developed regions, life expectancy at age 60 is 18 years for men and 22 years for women.

The majority of older persons are women

Among those aged 60 years or older, 55 per cent are women. In addition, among the oldest old (80 years or older), 65 per cent are women. The reason is that women generally have lower death rates at every age. The percentage of women in older age groups is higher in the more developed regions than in the less developed regions due to larger differences in life expectancy between the sexes in the more developed regions.

Older men are much more likely than older women to be married

While 79 per cent of older men are currently married, the corresponding figure for older women is 43 per cent. Most older persons without a spouse have been widowed. Women are more likely to outlive their spouses, because they have lower death rates than men at every age, and, on average, are younger than their husbands.

The number of working age persons per older person is declining rapidly

Potential support ratios are used as indicators of the relative sizes of the working age and non-working age populations. The potential support ratio (the number of persons aged 15 - 64 years per older person aged 65 years or older) indicates the dependency burden on potential workers. The impact of demographic ageing is visible in the potential support ratio, which is falling in both more and less developed regions. Between 1999 and 2050, the potential support ratio will decline from 5 working age persons per older person to 2 working age persons per older person in more developed regions and by an even larger fraction in less developed regions, from 12 to 4 working age persons per older person. Potential support ratios have important implications for social security schemes, particularly traditional pay-as-you-go systems, in which current workers pay for the benefits of current retirees.

Where national incomes are high, older persons are less likely to work

Countries with high per capita incomes tend to have lower labour force participation rates of older workers, and older men have higher participation rates than older women. Only 23 per cent of men aged 60 years or older were still economically active in more developed regions, as compared with 52 per cent of men in less developed regions. In more developed regions, 10 per cent of older women are economically active, compared with 20 per cent in less developed regions.

The statutory retirement age in less developed regions is generally lower than in more developed regions. Also, in about one-third of countries of the world, the retirement age is lower for women than for men. Older persons participate to a lesser extent in labour markets in more developed regions, because of the wider coverage of retirement schemes and the higher incomes provided under the systems.

The data presented in the wall chart are also available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.undp.org/popin.

POPIN UPDATE

The Population Information Network (POPIN), a decentralized network for the coordination of regional and national population information activities, is an important activity of the work programme of the Population Division. The global POPIN Coordinating Unit, which receives funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), is located in the Population Division.

Information activities in Asia and the Pacific

The Pacific POPIN Consultative Meeting and the Training Workshop were held at the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific POPIN secretariat, from 17 to 21 May 1999, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network of ESCAP. The meetings were attended by eight participants from six pacific island countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

The Consultative Meeting reaffirmed the commitment the countries made at the last meeting held in 1995 and recommended, among others, (1) the use of information technology, including e mail, as a means of communication for in-country and intra-country networking and for information dissemination; (2) the development of directory databases and thematic databases as inputs to Asia-Pacific POPIN regional databases; and (3) close collaboration with the UNFPA Country Support Teams (CST) for advisory services and assistance to the national POPIN centres, in the Pacific subregion.

The Training Workshop covered topics such as an introduction to the Internet; HTML basics; web page creation using Frontpage software; conducting demographic research with the Internet; and electronic mail. The participants agreed to create national POPIN pages, using the Frontpage software which will be provided to national POPINs by the Pacific POPIN secretariat. Resulting web pages will be mounted on the USP Internet server. The standard format and the contents of the national pages were discussed and agreed among members during the workshop.

Information activities in Latin America and the Caribbean

In February 1999, the Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE) of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Programa Centroamericano de

Población of the University of Costa Rica, the Latin American and Caribbean Population Information Network (IPALCA) and the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit held two Spanish-language workshops in Costa Rica on population website authoring. An important objective of POPIN/IPALCA is to create and improve the capabilities of national and local institutions to make population information available and easily located, and thereby, to increase the utilization of population information by potential users.

Workshop participants included representatives from non-governmental organizations including members of the Latin American Population Programme (PROLAP), national public and private institutions working in the population field, and representatives of UNFPA-funded projects that were identified by the UNFPA country representatives. In all, 37 participants from 37 centres designed, organized and created preliminary websites that are expected to be made available in their final form by late 1999.

Information activities in the European Region

The Population Activities Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is organising a workshop on data and analysis of population change and the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in countries with economies in transition. The workshop, which is being organised in collaboration with the Council of Europe, the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Population Division and the University of Geneva will be held at the University of Geneva during 9-13 August 1999. Some thirty participants, including population researchers and statisticians, are expected to take part.

The overarching objective of the workshop is to contribute to capacity building in countries with economies in transition conducive to the monitoring of ongoing population developments and related

social and economic change. Particular attention will be paid to monitoring the implementation of the programmes of action of recent global and European population conferences, including the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The specific aims are:

(i) to share information on population and related data and indicators available at regional and national organisations, including national statistical offices and population centres;

(ii) to explore ways of improving co-operation in the exchange of data and indicators between national institutions and the regional organisations;

(iii) to provide training relating to the development of national POPIN web sites as the means of exchanging data and indicators; and

(iv) to develop guidelines for the preparation of national reports on population activities and on the implementation of the Programme of Action, for the preparation of reports for policy makers.

Interested participants will be offered intensive introductory-to-intermediate-level training in techniques for website development. The workshop organisers hope that the training will result in a doubling of the number of national POPIN websites in Europe. Currently sites exist or are being finalized in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Latvia and Poland. Among other things, the sites are expected to help disseminate standardized national population information that the regional organizations intend to begin to jointly collect as of next year using a common questionnaire.

Information activities in the Africa Region

In collaboration with the Global POPIN Coordinating Unit, the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has established

an Internet website devoted to the African experience in the follow-up of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Internet address of this website is http://www.un.org/Depts/eca/divis/fssd/icpd/index.htm

The FSSD, with financial support from UNFPA, is also launching a new publication entitled *Africa's Population and Development Bulletin/Bulletin d'Afrique sur la Population et le Développement*. It is planned that this publication will be published twice a year and will cover population activities and research in the Africa Region. The first issue of the Bulletin is scheduled to be published in July 1999. It is planned that this Bulletin will also be made available on the FSSD website. For further information, contact Ms. Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye, Editor-in-Chief at makinwa-adebusoye@un.org.

The Division is also organizing an Expert Group Workshop on the Research Agenda for Women's Reproductive Health and Food Production in Addis Ababa, from 23-26 November 1999. Details of this activity will be made available on the FSSD website. For further information, contact UNECA-FSSDD, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia or via email: makinwa-adebusoye@un.org

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

WORLD POPULATION MONITORING, 2000

Work is in progress on *World Population Monitoring, 2000*, to be submitted to the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-third session. The theme of the report is "Population, gender and development". The report will contain chapters on gender issues and family formation, health and mortality, ageing, internal and international migration as well as a chapter on the long-term historical view on gender issues and demographic change. The report will also include annex tables providing indicators of the current demographic situation in countries, major areas and regions.

This is the fifth of the annual reports prepared by the Population Division monitoring selected themes of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Previous reports covered reproductive rights and reproductive health (1996), international migration and development (1997), health and mortality (1998) and population growth, structure and distribution (1999).

Report to the General Assembly on International Migration

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present at its fifty-fourth session a report on international migration and development, taking into account, among other things, the views of Member States, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, bearing in mind various regional processes, and recommending ways and means to address the problems related to migration and development, including the possibility of convening an international conference on international migration and development (resolution 52/189).

In order to prepare this report, which will be an update of similar reports prepared for the fiftieth session and for the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, the Population Division has sent questionnaires to all Member States and relevant organizations, requesting their views regarding the aim and focus of such a conference, the preparatory process, and the logistics of the conference. The Population Division is currently engaged in analyzing the responses, and the report should become available in September 1999.

ABORTION POLICIES: A GLOBAL REVIEW

The Population Division is in the process of revising and updating *Abortion Policies: A Global Review*, the three-volume series originally issued by the Population Division between 1992 and 1995. The publication examines the legal and policy status of induced abortion on a country-by-country basis. The study takes a historical perspective, providing information on the evolution of abortion law in each country, particularly focusing on recent developments - changes in abortion laws and policies that have taken place since the early 1990s. The report surveys the grounds on which induced abortion is legally permitted and provides demographic data on contraceptive prevalence, the total fertility rate, the maternal mortality rate, female life expectancy, and Governments' views on levels of maternal mortality and fertility.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Research studies

National Population Policies. ST/ESA/SER.A/171. Sales No. E.99.XIII.3.

World Contraceptive Use 1998 (Wall chart). ST/ESA/SER.A/175. Sales No. E.99.XIII.4.

World Abortion Policies 1999 (Wall chart). ST/ESA/SER.A/178. Sales No. E.99.XIII.5.

World Population Prospects: 1998 Revision. Vol. I. ST/ESA/SER.A/177. Sales No. E.99.XIII.9.

World Population Prospects: 1998 Revision. Vol. II. ST/ESA/SER.A/180. Sales No. E.99.XIII.8.

World Population 1998 (Wall chart). ST/ESA/SER.A/176. Sales No. E.99.XIII.6.

Population Growth and Demographic Structure: Proceedings of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure. ST/ESA/SER.R/132. Sales No. E.99.XIII.7.

Population Ageing 1999 (Wall chart). ST/ESA/SER.A/179. Sales No. E.99.XIII.11.

POPULATION AGEING 1999

Country or area	Population aged 60 years or older: Number (thousands) 1999 (1)	Number (thousands) 2050 (2)	Percentage of total population 1999 (3)	Percentage of total population 2050 (4)	Percentage aged 80 years or older 1999 (5)	Percentage aged 80 years or older 2050 (6)	Percentage currently married [1] Men / Women (7)	Percentage in labour force 1995 Men / Women [2] (8)	Women as percentage population aged 60 years or older (9)	Women as percentage population aged 80 years or older 1999 (10)	Potential support ratio [3] 1999 (11)	Potential support ratio [3] 2050 (12)	Life expectancy at age 60 1995-2000 Men / Women (13)
World total	593 111	1 969 809	10	22	11	19	79 / 43	42 / 16	55	65	9	4	17 / 20
More developed regions	228 977	375 516	19	33	10	27	80 / 43	23 / 10	59	69	5	2	18 / 22
Less developed regions	364 133	1 594 293	8	21	9	17	78 / 43	52 / 20	53	61	12	4	16 / 18
Least developed countries	30 580	180 983	5	12	7	10	85 / 39	76 / 44	53	57	18	8	14 / 16
Africa	38 078	211 972	5	12	7	10	84 / 38	67 / 34	55	59	17	8	15 / 16
Eastern Africa	10 326	58 942	4	10	7	9	83 / 39	81 / 53	55	60	19	11	14 / 15
Middle Africa	4 503	25 011	5	9	7	10	81 / 37	75 / 41	55	61	16	12	15 / 16
Northern Africa	10 377	60 247	6	20	8	13	85 / 34	47 / 14	54	55	15	5	16 / 17
Southern Africa	2 618	8 853	6	14	7	10	80 / 42	44 / 12	60	74	17	8	12 / 16
Western Africa	10 254	58 920	5	11	7	10	87 / 41	79 / 40	54	58	18	9	15 / 16
Asia	314 221	1 238 663	9	24	9	18	78 / 44	51 / 19	53	62	11	4	16 / 19
Eastern Asia	162 560	506 694	11	30	10	23	76 / 48	43 / 16	53	66	9	3	17 / 20
South-central Asia	102 141	486 724	7	20	8	14	81 / 38	60 / 19	52	55	13	5	16 / 18
South-eastern Asia	36 510	177 513	7	23	8	16	82 / 41	59 / 32	55	61	14	4	16 / 18
Western Asia	13 009	67 732	7	18	9	15	86 / 50	46 / 18	54	61	13	5	17 / 20
Europe	146 431	217 775	20	35	15	26	80 / 41	17 / 7	60	71	5	2	17 / 22
Eastern Europe	56 902	86 696	18	34	11	20	83 / 36	19 / 9	63	76	5	2	15 / 19
Northern Europe	19 293	28 586	20	32	19	29	73 / 43	21 / 8	57	68	4	2	18 / 23
Southern Europe	31 302	44 593	22	39	15	30	81 / 47	19 / 6	57	67	4	2	19 / 23
Western Europe	38 934	57 899	21	34	17	31	78 / 44	10 / 4	58	71	4	2	19 / 24
Latin America and the Caribbe	40 037	180 622	8	22	11	18	76 / 42	48 / 12	55	61	12	4	18 / 20
Caribbean	3 662	12 589	10	24	14	21	69 / 42	39 / 13	53	56	9	3	19 / 21
Central America	8 715	48 853	7	22	11	18	78 / 48	63 / 15	54	59	14	4	19 / 21
South America	27 660	119 189	8	22	11	18	76 / 40	45 / 11	56	62	12	4	17 / 20
Northern America	50 339	109 600	16	28	19	28	76 / 45	24 / 13	57	67	5	3	19 / 24
Oceania	4 016	11 172	13	24	16	24	75 / 50	22 / 8	54	65	7	3	19 / 23

Source United Nations, Population Division, Population Ageing 1999 (Sales No. E.99.XIII.11)

1) Weighted averages. Currently married includes where possible, those in consensual unions.

2) Percentage of older persons who are in the labour force.

3) Number of persons aged 15-64 years for each person aged 65 years or older.